



# CARTER COURIER

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## LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

This week Congress was busy as the House passed the Fiscal Year 2008 Defense Authorization bill. This measure will help guide us as we continue to fund our men and women in uniform and seek to protect our nation from threats. The Senate unveiled its immigration bill which I am concerned creates amnesty for millions of people who bypassed the rule of law. I am determined that we can pass a comprehensive immigration bill without providing the blanket amnesty that was given in the '80s. Unfortunately the Democrats in Congress continue to play politics with this vital piece of legislation.

Also this week, I worked with my colleagues on the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee to pass the annual funding bill that will enable the Department of Homeland Security to maintain operations and work toward ensuring security for all Americans. Now that this bill has been passed from the subcommittee, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that it addresses the priorities essential to securing our nation.

As always, I thank all of you in the 31st District for the opportunity to serve you in Congress and look forward to the work that lies ahead in the coming days.

Until next week,

## GATHERING INTELLIGENCE TO SAVE LIVES; NOT PROMOTE POLITICS

One of the greatest protections our government can afford in an increasingly dangerous world is the ability to gather intelligence and use that knowledge to protect Americans from harm. Would any of us argue that it is not a dangerous world? The threat of terrorism is alive and real.

Sadly there are many in Congress who do not agree with our Central Texas commonsense. Recently, the House of Representatives discussed national security and the priority of intelligence-gathering as laid forth in the 2008 Intelligence Authorization bill. But you may be interested to know that this bill, crafted by Democrats, is bringing a new and more "relaxed" attitude to the intelligence community. An example: this bill requires the Director of National Intelligence to submit a report that discusses the effects of global warming and climate change. Does this sound like an intelligence function to you?

What this means in layman terms is that our finite intelligence-gathering resources – satellites, man hours, and taxpayer dollars – will be used to measure melting glaciers in summer time,

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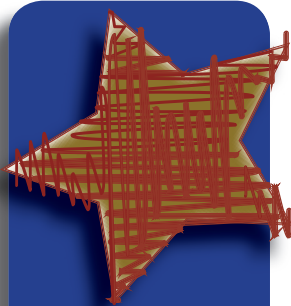
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instead of the threats being hurled at America by Osama bin Laden and his band of thugs.

The great value of gathering intelligence is that it allows us to thwart terrorist plans before they materialize. With that said, this vigilance is never done. We must be ever mindful of the threats that exist and take steps to prevent them. While things may appear calm on the surface, that is no reason to send our precious intelligence resources to Antarctica to research climate change.

This irresponsible interpretation of “intelligence gathering” is nothing new for liberals. President Clinton during his administration slashed funding for intelligence collection and analysis, but added money for frivolous projects such as the “DCI Environmental Center.” This center was notorious for wasting intelligence resources. The center diverted precious spy satellite time to survey the polar ice caps and sea turtle nests on beaches.

Similarly, this Congress is showing a preference for conducting “politically correct” intelligence. Those supporting this effort are the same ones who railed against flawed intelligence during the War on Terror, and yet their solution is to peel away valuable resources to study liberal priorities, like global warming.

In addition, the Democratic majority has also killed efforts to end – or in fact to even audit – wasteful spending funneled through the intelligence budget that could have been better directed to true national security interests. By shutting the door to fiscal restraint and accountability, liberals are paving the road to the “politically correct” intelligence community they’ve envisioned for decades.

America is at an important impasse of national security and partisan politics. One of these will protect us; the other will not. Spy satellites, intelligence analysts, and taxpayer dollars only go so far in the effort to protect us from another 9/11. Can we really afford to send some of them to Antarctica in the quest to measure glaciers? Make no mistake about it; the terrorists want another 9/11. With the Democrats’ plan – will we be ready?

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#### **TED KENNEDY AMNESTY AGREEMENT INTOLERABLE**

The Senate’s compromise would reward 12 million immigrants who entered our country illegally with citizenship and benefits granted only to legal U.S. residents. As an elected District Judge for 20 years, I believe in the rule of law and have fought for tough enforcement of our nation’s immigration laws. I will not support this plan or any other that grants amnesty to anyone who broke the law to enter the United States illegally.

I am also concerned because this legislation does not meet workforce needs; it requires union wages for guest workers, which means there will still be incentive for businesses to hire illegal workers who work for lower wages. This legislation also allows temporary workers to bring their families into the country.

I have long called for comprehensive immigration reform that secures America’s borders. I have introduced legislation this Congress to address illegal immigration issues, including the Social Security Card Fortification Act and the Social Security Benefits Protection Act (H.R. 332). If the Senate proposal passes the full Senate, it will then move to the House of Representatives for consideration.

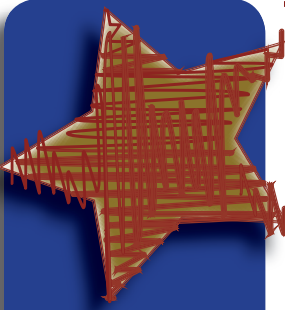
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#### **LISTEN TO MY WEEKLY RADIO ADDRESS**

Please click on the link below to listen to my most recent weekly radio address that was sent to local radio and television stations. This week’s five minute address discusses the 110th Congress’ “do-nothing” leadership.

<http://carter.house.gov/multimedia/>

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### **COPPERAS COVE LAND SWAP APPROVED BY HOUSE**

This past week I announced approval from the U.S. House of Representatives for a land exchange between Fort Hood and the City of Copperas Cove. The exchange was included in the Defense Authorization Bill considered on the House floor this week.

This deal will increase the quality of life for the residents of Copperas Cove and surrounding communities. I am happy my colleagues in the House of Representatives were able to see the value of this project and include it in the Defense Authorization Act.

Conveyance of the land will facilitate construction of a reliever route around the south side of Copperas Cove to re-route traffic coming off of US HWY 190, thereby mitigating the resulting traffic at stop lights and intersections through Copperas Cove.

The swap will convey approximately 200 acres from Fort Hood to Copperas Cove in exchange for a parcel of land of equal value adjacent to Fort Hood. Copperas Cove will purchase this parcel upon determination of the value of Fort Hood's land based upon a survey and value appraisal.

The Senate will now consider and pass their version of the Defense Authorization Bill, and then conference with the House to agree upon a resolution before it is sent to the President for approval.

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### **ARMED SERVICES YMCA PRESENTS ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL CHAMPION AWARD**

The Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA), the nation's leading nonprofit organization supporting the families of junior enlisted military personnel, recently honored me for my commitment to meeting the needs of America's military families. I received the Military Family Congressional Champion Award at ASYMCA's 20th Annual Recognition Luncheon on Capitol Hill.

As a member of the House Military Quality of Life Subcommittee, I work to ensure soldiers' and their families' needs are being provided for to the greatest extent possible. I introduced the Military Spouses Employment Act in 2006, which would expand the Workforce Opportunity Tax Credit to provide employers with tax incentives to hire qualified military spouses. I am reintroducing the bill in this Congress to help level the playing field for military spouses and prevent them from being penalized for their frequent moves.

I am honored to be presented with this award from such a prestigious organization. The Armed Services YMCA is a leader in supporting our military personnel and their families, and I am proud to work with this and similar groups that serve our fighting men and women.

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### **KILLEEN CELEBRATES ITS 125TH BIRTHDAY**

On May 15th I was proud to present an Extension of Remarks to the House of Representatives honoring the City of Killeen on its 125th birthday.

I am proud to represent the people of Killeen in Congress. Killeen has grown from a small railroad town to the home of the world's largest military station. Killeen makes supporting its soldiers and their families their top priority, and I am pleased to support this mission and the residents of this great Central Texas city.